

**CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING**  
**May 29, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. The following members of the Commission, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown, Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb. Janis Fullilove was absent.

Others in attendance included: Councilman William Boyd; Ricky E. Wilkins, The Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney; Bridgett Hand-Clay, City of Memphis, Open Records Coordinator, among others.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Commission meeting of May 15, 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes, the minutes were approved as presented.

**OPENING DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:** Commission Brown has asked the Commissioners to reconsider the vote on the motion for a referendum to have City Council approve contracts over a certain dollar amount. Commission Brown briefly explained the differences between a strong and weak mayor form of Government and stated the need to consider the impact of changing contracting authority on our strong mayor form of Government.

After much discussion, Commissioner Webb made a motion to table the discussion on contracts approval and reconsideration of the earlier vote and to invite stakeholders to address this issue. The vote was seconded by Commissioner Brooks and approved by all members present.

The Commissioners decided to request Attorney Ricky Wilkins, Professor Stephen H. Wirls, Rhodes College, MTAS representative, a representative from the Mayor's administration, City Council Chairman, Scott McCormick, and former city Mayor Hackett attend the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Chairman Lowery called on Commissioner Brown to explain his proposal concerning vacancy in the office of the Mayor. Commissioner Brown presented his proposal and then made a motion to adopt the language as presented:

In the event the office of the Mayor becomes vacant, the City Council Chair, who will at that time have the title of Mayor Pro-Tem, shall serve as Mayor for up to 90 days following such vacancy, at which time the public shall elect a duly qualified person to serve the remaining unexpired

term of the vacated office, provided that if no general or municipal election is held within 180 days of such vacancy, a special election shall be held to elect a replacement to fill the vacancy through the end of the remaining unexpired Mayoral term.

The vote was seconded by Commissioner Brooks and discussion followed. Commissioner Brown asked Attorney Wilkins to draft the appropriate language for this Charter amendment relating to the vacancy in the office of the Mayor.

The Chairman called for the vote, the vote was approved by all members present.

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Janis Fullilove	Absent
Sharon Webb	Aye

## **NEW BUSINESS**

As a reminder of the rules adopted by the Commission, Chairman Lowery stated that four members in attendance is a quorum, and for any referendum item to be submitted to the voters it will need a majority of the Charter Commission which is also four members. Next, Chairman Lowery suggested that they vote on the Mayor contracting authority at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and then distributed to the commissioners Councilman Boyd's proposed disclosure referendum to be added to the ballot.

Chairman Lowery asked Mr. Wilkins to begin drafting the language for the Charter referendums. Chairman Lowery informed the Commissioners that Shelby County is proposing a 3 term limit on the August ballot and noted that if voters approve 3 term limits for county officials in August, he will also recommend a limit of 3 terms for City Council members.

In closing, Chairman Lowery asked the members of the Commission to review the list of Charter clean-up items and offer their feedback. Chairman Lowery further stated that he has contacted Mr. James Johnson with the Election Committee to provide his recommendation on staggered terms.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled. The next meeting is June 19, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. The Commissioners will resume discussion of the list of citizens' recommendations beginning with the Mayor Appointees. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bridgett Handy-Clay